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Inventory
for
Manuscript Collection
MS-461

Captain Alonzo P. Nash Papers

Inclusive dates 1866-1869

by
Nathan R. Lipfert

March 2012

Number of boxes: ½
One manuscript volume, some loose papers
Accession # 2006.087.01

A PART OF THE CAPTAIN W. J. LEWIS PARKER BEQUEST

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Abstract

Nash, Alonzo P., *Captain*, (1881 - ?)
Papers, 1910-1914
½ box, three folders
Sea captain from Harrington ME.
Account book and loose accounts relating to the operation of the *William E. Downes* (Three-mast schooner) of New Haven (CT), while under the command of Captain Alonzo P. Nash in the coastal trade. Documents voyages up and down the East Coast and to the West Indies, carrying lumber, coal, and asphalt.
Bequeathed by Capt. W. J. Lewis Parker in 2006.
MS-461; Accession # 2006.087.01
Finding aid in repository; folder level control.

Added Entries—People
Weaver, E. H.

Added Entries—Places
Bath (ME)
Brunswick (GA)
Cienfuegos (CUB)
Fernandina (FL)
Gulfport (MS)
Jacksonville (FL)
New Haven (CT)
New London (CT)
New York
Newport News (VA)
Norfolk (VA)
Perth Amboy (NJ)
Savannah (GA)
Trinidad (BWI)
Weymouth (NVS)

Added Entries—Corporate Bodies (including vessels)
William E. Downes (Three-mast schooner)

Added Entries—Key Terms
Asphalt trade
Coal trade
Coastwise shipping
Lumber trade
Sea captains
Schooners

Acquisition

The papers of Captain Alonzo P. Nash were bequeathed to Maine Maritime Museum from the estate of Captain W. J. Lewis Parker in November and December 2006.

Provenance

Captain Parker was an extremely knowledgeable collector. He picked up many parts of his collection of maritime papers by purchase from dealers, auctions, or estate sales, or by gifts from relatives of maritime figures. We have found no documentation of how he acquired this particular group of manuscripts. These papers were found in his study with similar items, and were part of his maritime library which he bequeathed Maine Maritime Museum.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the use of these materials for study or research. Researchers should seek permission to obtain copies, and for publication of any sort.

Physical Condition

Other than the usual surface dirt and minor tears, the manuscripts in this collection have no physical problems. Overall, the papers of Captain Alonzo P. Nash are in good condition.

Biographical/Historical Notes

Alonzo P. Nash (Junior?) was born May 15, 1881, to Alonzo P. and Emily Nash, probably at Harrington, Maine, in Washington County. The 1900 Census shows him living in Harrington with his mother and older brother Henry, and Alonzo Jr. giving his occupation as Sailor (2nd Mate). On August 10, 1903, aged 22 and giving his occupation already as master mariner, he married Mary A. Hall of Addison, Maine, also 22. The 1910 Census shows Alonzo and Mary living still in Harrington, married six years, with 3 children: Alonzo, 5; Andrew H., 4; and Sarah E., 6 months. His occupation at that time was given as sailor, merchant vessel. In this period he was in command of the three-mast schooner *William E. Downes*, as shown by the documents in this collection. In 1918 he shows up on a crew manifest at New York in command of a steamer *Evelyn* arriving from La Pallice (FRA). The 1920 Harrington Census, sure enough, lists him as a captain, steamship.

Between 1920 and 1930 something happens to the family, and Alonzo and Mary are divorced. The 1930 Census shows an Alonzo Nash living in Harrington, but he is 25 and a blueberry farmer. This is the son – he is a homeowner, and head of household. His mother Mary is living with him, listed as divorced. His younger brother Andrew, occupation steamboat seaman, is also listed in the household. The father Alonzo P. Nash is probably the Alonzo Nash who shows up in the New Orleans Census, occupation Underwriters Surveyor, approximately the right age, living in a rooming house. Evidence for this identification is the name of someone else living in the same rooming house: Andrew Nash, 23, Mariner. This would mean that Andrew was listed twice in the same census, his mother and brother back in Maine not thinking that he might be staying in a rooming house somewhere the day the census taker came.

Whether Captain Nash left the sea permanently at this time is not known. No death date has been found for him. His wife Mary H. Nash died December 30, 1973, aged 92, at Ellsworth, ME.

The three-mast schooner *William E. Downes* was built at Bath (ME) by George Hawley in 1885, for New Haven (CT) ship chandler E. H. Weaver and others. She was named for a man in New Haven. The vessel was flush-decked and had two decks, an octagonal after cabin, and measured 753 gross tons, 638 net tons, and 164′ length. Construction materials were oak, hackmatack, hardwoods, yellow pine, with iron and copper fastenings. Listed as a centerboard vessel in the *Record*, this does not seem to be mentioned by the papers. She received rave reviews and full descriptions in the Bath and Bangor papers. Her home port was New Haven, and in 1910 MVUS listed her crew at seven.

Her first cargo was Kennebec ice to Baltimore. Her first master was Joseph W. Haskell, followed by Richardson by 1902, A. H. Grey about 1905, Carl Flynn about 1906, and Alonzo P. Nash probably in 1910. Nash's name is replaced in the registers by Brown in 1916. This collection documents Nash's command of the vessel through 1912.

In November 1899 the loss of the schooner was reported in the local paper. Out of Savannah for New Haven with lumber, the schooner ran into a hurricane, the deck load shifted, seams opened, and the vessel became waterlogged. Captain Dyer and his crew abandoned the schooner and were rescued by an Italian bark. The details are unknown at the moment, but the vessel must have been salvaged. We know it was rebuilt in 1899, and stayed under the same managing owner until about 1917, when the home port was changed to New York. The *Record* reports the second owners as Manuel Caragol & Son, Inc., then records the vessel as "suspended" June 1919. In 1922 the *Record* lists the schooner under the new name of *Milagrosa*, with owners in Barcelona (SPA). The vessel is not listed by 1929.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection consists of an account book and two folders of loose papers found with the account book. The account book records income and expenses for the three-mast schooner *William E. Downes* from 1910 through 1914, ending on page 65. Each page records a trip or part of a trip, with expenses listed for one or more ports. These records are referred to as "Sch. Wm. E. Downes in acct with A. P. Nash." Cargoes are often mentioned (coal, lumber, asphalt) and ports include Bath (ME), Brunswick (GA), Cienfuegos (CUB), Fernandina (FL), Gulfport (MS), Jacksonville (FL), New Haven (CT), New London (CT), New York, Newport News (VA), Norfolk (VA), Perth Amboy (NJ), Savannah (GA), Trinidad (BWI), and Weymouth (NVS). The visit to Bath contains a detailed account of extensive repairs done at that time (October – December, 1910).

One folder of loose papers contains pages torn out of printed account books, with handwritten accounts on each page. All pertain to the voyages of the *William E. Downes*, describing the financial benefits of Captain Nash and Managing Owner E. H. Weaver. They are dated from February of 1910 through March of 1912. Each page is headed "Capt. A. P. Nash, In

account with E. H. Weaver," contains five or more months of accounting, and ends with these words or similar, "Friend Nash, Copy of our private acct – see if it agrees with your acct. E. H. Weaver." There are six pages; the final one is typewritten.

The second folder contains several pages of miscellaneous financial notes, each of which is incomplete. There is an account page of Nash and Weaver's financial relationship, similar to those in the folder above, but with no dates (This is on a billhead for E. H. Weaver & Co., "Ship Chandlers. Groceries and Provisions. Tackle blocks, Cordage, etc., of every description."). There is another undated page of accounts, uncertain as to which vessel and who is keeping the record, although it ends with "Cash to Capt." There is a third partial account, running from September to November 1912, for the schooner *William E. Downes*, but with no indications of whose account it is.

Folder List

Box#	Folder#	
1	1	Account Book, 1910-1914
	2	Account Summaries, 1910-1912
	3	Miscellaneous